

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08438 01 OF 02 131506Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 SSM-03

MCT-01 IO-13 TRSE-00 /094 W  
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O P 131347Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2296

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 161

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

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CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 8438

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION NOVEMBER 13

REF: BEIRUT 8422 (DTG 121453Z NOV 76)

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 08438 01 OF 02 131506Z

1. SUMMARY. THREE NEW SYRIAN BRIGADES ENTERED LEBANON

NOV 12. ASF NOW EXPECTED TO ENTER BEIRUT NOV 14 AND DEPLOYMENT PLAN FOR CITY "RADICALLY AMENDED." DELAY ATTRIBUTED TO OPPOSITION BY PALESTINIAN REJECTION FRONT TO EXCLUSIVELY SYRIAN ASF. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTEMPT ON LIFE OF RAYMOND EDDE NOT YET DETERMINED. NINETEEN SUSPECTS IN THE SALIMA INCIDENT ARE BEING HELD BY SYRIANS. HEAVY SHELLING AND GUN BATTLES CONTINUE IN EAST AND WEST BEIRUT, INCLUDING GROUND FIGHTING IN PORT AREA. SITUATION STILL TENSE IN ZGHORTA IN NORTH AND IN SOUTH LEBANON. SARKIS REPORTEDLY HAS AGREEMENT OF MEA AND FOREIGN AIRLINES TO BEGIN DAYLIGHT OPERATIONS AT AIRPORT NOV 18. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN REINFORCEMENTS ENTER LEBANON. AMERICAN JOURNALIST TRAVELING DAMASCUS-BEIRUT NOV 12 COUNTED OVER 100 FRESHLY-PAINTED (COMOUFLAGE COLORS) TRACKED VEHICLES, INCLUDING SOVIET T/54-55'S AND T-62'S, ON TANK TRANSPORTERS AND LARGE NUMBER AMMUNITION TRUCKS ALONG ENTIRE ROAD BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND ALEY. VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS REPORT UP TO THREE NEW SYRIAN BRIGADES ENTERED LEBANON NOV 12, TWO DESTINED FOR BEIRUT AND ONE FOR THE SHUF. LEBANESE ARMY G-2 REPORTS THAT ONLY ONE NEW BRIGADE HAS ARRIVED WITH BALANCE DUE IN NEXT THREE-FIVE DAYS.

3. ASF DEPLOYMENTS. IT NOW APPEARS ASF WILL NOT ENTER BEIRUT BEFORE EARLY SUNDAY, NOV 14. IN ADDITION TO 6,000 SYRIAN TROOPS, IT EXPECTED THAT YET UNCOMMITTED BALANCE OF 2,300 ARAB LEAGUE FORCES, STATIONED NEAR BEIRUT AIRPORT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, WILL JOIN OPERATION. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR SAYS 250 TANKS AND ARMORED VEHICLES TO BE USED. L'ORIENT AND AN NAHAR SAY PRESENT PLAN CALLS FOR FOUR AXES OF PENETRATION INTO THE CITY: 1) FROM GALERY SIMAAN/AYN AR-RAMMANAH/HADATH/LAYLAKI TO BEIRUT AIRPORT; 2) FROM GALERY SIMAAN/SIN AL-FIL/PALACE OF JUSTICE/MUSEUM/DAMASCUS ROAD TO CITY CENTER; 3) FROM ANTILYAS/CORNICHE NAHR/PORT/FATTAL BUILDING TO HOTEL DISTRICT; AND 4) FROM KHALDE/HAZMIYAH/AIRPORT CIRCLE TO CORNICHE MAZRAA. HOWEVER, AS SAFIR CLAIMS SECOND STAGE "RADICALLY AMENDED." INSTEAD OF DEPLOYMENTS ALONG CONFRONTATION

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 08438 01 OF 02 131506Z

LINES, ASF FORCES TO ENTER WHOLE OF BEIRUT, MAINTAINING SECURITY PATROLS OPERATING FROM FIXED POSITIONS WITHIN BOTH SECTORS. ALSO EXPECTED ASF WILL SOON DEPLOY IN TRIPOLI IN NORTH, BUT PLANS FOR SOUTH LEBANON REMAIN UNCERTAIN.

4. FURTHER EXPLANATIONS FOR DELAY. ASF COMMANDER AL-HAJJ REPORTEDLY ATTRIBUTED POSTPONEMENT TO ARRIVAL

OF NEW ARAB FORCES TO JOIN SYRIANS SO THAT ENTRY INTO BEIRUT WILL BE BY "MIXED NATIONALITIES." CAMILLE CHAMOUN BLAMES DELAY ON OPPOSITION BY PALESTINIAN REJECTIONIST FRONT TO EXCLUSIVELY SYRIAN ASF. AN NAHAR REPORTS 700 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES SOLDIERS HAVE ARRIVED IN DAMASCUS AND WILL ENTER LEBANON NOV 13. ON OTHER HAND, LEBANESE ARMY G-2 SOURCE SAYS THAT REASON FOR DELAY PRIMARILY DUE TO PRESENCE OF LARGE IRAQI FORCE IN AREA BETWEEN MAR MIKHAIL CHURCH AND AIRPORT ROUNDAABOUT. SARKIS/SYRIANS ARE IN PROCESS NEGOTIATING THEIR WITHDRAWAL WITH IRAQI EMBASSY. IRAQIS DEMANDING GUARANTEE THAT AL MUHARRIR AND BEIRUT NEWSPAPERS WILL NOT BE CLOSED OR HARRASSED IN ANY WAY. COMMENT: HOWEVER PLAN UNFOLDS, IT CLEAR THAT SARKIS AND AL-HAJJ HAVE BEEN MOVING SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY IN ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOAL OF COMPLETE PACIFICATION WITHOUT MAJOR CLASH WITH ONE OF MANY ARMED MILITIAS ON BOTH SIDWS. SO FAR, THEY HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THEY NOW APPEAR POISED AND READY TO UNDERTAKE THE FINAL OCCUPATION OF BEIRUT WITH A MASSIVE FORCE THAT SHOULD DISCOURAGE ANY OPPOSITION. END COMMENT.

5. ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON RAYMOND EDDE. NO INFORMATION HAS EMERGED ON WHICH ORGANIZATION MIGHT HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR NOV 11 ATTEMPT ON EDDE'S LIFE. HOWEVER, SALAH KHALAF (ABU IYAD) SAID PLO TWO DAYS AGO INFORMED OF POSSIBLE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST CERTAIN NUMBER OF "PATRIOTIC PERSONALITIES," INCLUDING EDDE. EDDE, MEANWHILE, TOOK ADAVNTAGE OF ATTENTION FOCUSED ON HIM NOV 12 TO MAKE LENGTHY DISQUISITION ON HISTORY OF "CONSPIRACY" IN LEBANON OVER LAST THREE YEARS.

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PAGE 04 BEIRUT 08438 01 OF 02 131506Z

6. THE SALIMA AFFAIR. OUT OF AT LEAST 300 PERSONS INITIALLY APPREHENDED IN CONNECTION WITH MURDER OF EIGHT PHALANGISTS NOV 10, SYRIANS HAVE RETAINED 19 SUSPECTS. DEPUTY MIKHAIL DAHAR DEMANDING THAT SUSPECTS BE TRIED IN LEBANESE COURT VICE SYRIAN COURT.

7. PALESTINAINS. Wafa ANNOUNCED PALESTINIAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SOME 40 MEMBERS) TO MEET BEGINNING NEXT WEEK FIRST IN BEIRUT AND LATER IN DAMASCUS.

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08438 02 OF 02 131513Z

43

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 SSM-03

MCT-01 IO-13 TRSE-00 /094 W  
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O P 131347Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2297

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 162

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

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COMSIXTHFLT

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USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 8438

8. IRAQIS. AS SAFIR, QUOTING CHRISTIAN SOURCES, SAYS  
SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM AND PLO POLITICAL LEADER  
QADDUMI HAVE AGREED ON PLAN TO REMOVE IRAQIS FROM  
LEBANON, PASSING WITH THEIR WEAPONS VIA SYRIA TO IRAQ.  
FROM OTHER SOURCES, WE UNDERSTAND SOME 800 IRAQIS  
HAVE ALREADY DEPARTED WEST BEIRUT AND ARE NOW IN  
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 08438 02 OF 02 131513Z

SOUTHERN SHUF.

9. GROUND SITUATION: BEIRUT. HEAVY SHELLING AND SPORADIC GUNFIRE CONTINUED IN EAST AND WEST BEIRUT NOV 12, WITH ESTIMATES OF 13-19 KILLED AND OVER 100 HOSPITALIZED IN WESTERN SECTOR AND 4-6 KILLED IN EASTERN SECTOR. MOST CASUALTIES IN WEST BEIRUT RESULTED WHEN SHELLS FELL ON BUSY VEGETABLE MARKET AND LAA FUNERAL PROCESSION IN AYSHI BAKKAR, BUT SHELLS ALSO FELL IN WEST ON SHIYAH, HAMRA, BARBIR HOSPITAL AREA, RAMLAT AL-BAYDA AND VERDUN, AND IN EAST ON ASHRAFIYAH. HEAVY SNIPING IN COMMERCIAL CENTER AND MUSEUM AREA. GROUND FIGHTING REPORTED AROUND FATTAL BUILDING (PORT AREA), WHICH APPARENTLY TAKEN OVER BY PALESTINIANS/ LEFTISTS NOV 11 AND RECAPTURED BY RIGHTISTS NOV 12. KIDNAPPINGS IN WEST BEIRUT CONTINUE. HAMRA SHOPPING AREA, WHICH ONE WEEK AGO WAS BUSTLING WITH ACTIVITY AND SHOPPERS, TODAY VERY QUIET WITH LITTLE MOVEMENT ON STREETS. LAA ISSUED STATEMENT DENOUNCING SHELLING OF CIVILIANS AND CALLING FOR ASF ACTION. RADIO AMSHIT REPLIED BY BLAMING LAA FOR WESTERN SECTOR AND PARTICULARLY VEGETABLE MARKET SHELLING. AS SAFIR CLAIMS PHALANGISTS HAVE IMPLICATED GUARDIANS OF THE CEDAR AND UNCONTROLLED CHAMOUNISTS IN SHELLINGS OF WEST.

10. GROUND SITUATION: ELSEWHERE. IN THE NORTH, MUTUAL SHELLINGS AGAIN BETWEEN ZGHORTA AND TRIPOLI. IN SOUTH, PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS CLAIM ISRAEL CONTINUES FIRE ARTILLERY ON LEFTIST POSITIONS AROUND BINT JBAYL, TIRI, SAF AL-HAWA AND ARCHAF; AT SAME TIME, RIGHTISTS CLAIM PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS CONTINUE TO ATTACK THEIR POSITIONS NEAR RMAYSH. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR REPORTS CONTINUED TENSION IN MARJAYUN AND SUPPOSEDLY NEUTRAL VILLAGE OF KHYAM, AND CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN "VANGUARDS" OF THE LEBANESE ARMY (PRO-SYRIAN) AND LAA IN RASHAYAH.

11. MORE ON THE AIRPORT. WE UNDERSTAND PRESIDENT SARKIS MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MEA AND TMA TO DISCUSS REOPENING OF BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. THEY DISCUSSED SECURITY PLAN FOR TRANSPORT OF CHRISTIAN AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 08438 02 OF 02 131513Z

MUSLIM EMPLOYEES IN COORDINATION WITH SYRIANS. PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY HAS AGREEMENT OF MEA AND OTHER FOREIGN AIRLINES TO BEGIN DAYLIGHT FLIGHTS TO BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NOV 18. FIRST FLIGHT MAY BRING IN NEW GROUND CONTROL EQUIPMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** MILI, PINS, PINT, LE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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